Plight of slum dwellers in cities

*166. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of HOUSING and URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding various projects in hand to improve plight of slum dwellers in the cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad and Chennai;

(b) the norms for providing land/plots to urban poor as on 31st March, 2008;

(c) whether his Ministry is aware of various slum demolitions all over the country by the respective State Governments; and

(d) whether there is any move in his Ministry to have an all India policy for slum improvement and also deciding upon no removal without alternative arrangements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARISELJA): (a) to (d) To improve the plight of slum dwellers in the 63 identified cities including Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad and Chennai, sub-mission on Basic Services to the Urban Poor(BSUP) under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) was launched on 3rd December, 2005. Ministry has slum related projects from the cities of Hyderabad and Kolkata, at hand. Five Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), costing Rs. 728.22 crore, were received from the city of Hyderabad and were approved by the Ministry and the first instalment of 25% of the Government of India's share, amounting to Rs. 77.99 crore, was released.

Land being a State subject, the Ministry has not prescribed any such norms for providing land/plots to the urban poor. However, as per the agenda of reforms which the States and the urban local bodies have to undertake during the Mission period for accessing Central assistance under BSUP, part of the developed land in all housing projects (both by public as well as private agencies) shall have to be earmarked for economically weaker sections/low income group categories, with a system of cross subsidization. Further, security of land tenure for the slum dwellers forms part of the 7-point charter that has to be implemented by the State Governments and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) as a mandatory reform.

Slum and slum improvement is a State subject and the State Governments have to take appropriate action as per their policy and in the context of judgements/directions of the various Courts with reference to the issue of demolitions.